

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1/2 **(Currently Amended)** A topical cosmetic composition comprising free nicotine ~~and in the form of a mixture with~~ at least one cosmetically acceptable vehicle, characterized in that ~~the nicotine is free nicotine.~~
- 2/2 **(Currently Amended)** ~~The A composition according to as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein ~~the~~ characterized in that ~~the free nicotine represents~~ comprises between 0.001 and 0.5% by weight of the composition.
- 3/2 **(Currently Amended)** ~~The A composition according to claim 1 as claimed in either of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is in the form of a gel, oily gel, cream, ointment, milk, lotion, balm, spray, emulsion, patch, or stick.~~
- 4/2 **(Currently Amended)** A method ~~The use of the composition as claimed in one of the preceding claims, for reducing or limiting any localized excess fat of the cellulite type in particular, said method comprising applying a cosmetic composition comprising free nicotine and at least one cosmetically acceptable vehicle topically to the epidermis at a location having said excess fat.~~
- 5/2 **(Currently Amended)** ~~The use of the composition as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, for improving the A method according to claim 4 wherein~~ firmness of the epidermis is improved.
- 6/2 **(Currently Amended)** ~~The use of the composition as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, for combating~~ A method according to claim 4, wherein skin aging is reduced.
- 7/2 **(Currently Amended)** ~~The use of the composition as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, for improving the A method according to claim 4, wherein~~ softness of the epidermis is improved.
- 8/2 **(Currently Amended)** A method for the cosmetic treatment of local excess fat of the cellulite type in particular, ~~according to which~~ wherein an effective quantity of a the

composition ~~which is the subject of one of claims 1 to 3~~ according to claim 1 is applied locally, by the topical route.

9. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The A method according to as claimed in claim 8, wherein characterized in that the quantity of free nicotine released is between 0.3 and 3 mg per application.~~
10. **(New)** A method according to claim 4, wherein free nicotine comprises between 0.001 and 0.5% by weight of the cosmetic composition.
11. **(New)** A method according to claim 4, wherein the cosmetic composition is in the form of a gel, oily gel, cream, ointment, milk, lotion, balm, spray, emulsion, patch, or stick.
12. **(New)** A method according to claim 8, wherein free nicotine comprises between 0.001 and 0.5% by weight of the cosmetic composition.
13. **(New)** A method according to claim 8, wherein the cosmetic composition is in the form of a gel, oily gel, cream, ointment, milk, lotion, balm, spray, emulsion, patch, or stick.